

There are few times where military installations and their neighboring communities do not depend on each other. In Washington State, for example, Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base form a major part of the Pierce County economy. They are the single biggest contributor, spending more than \$1.6 billion a year in salaries, benefits, and contracts. There are similar, mutually beneficial installation-community relationships around the country.

This fact sheet uses Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield Georgia as another example of military and civilian community interdependence. Your community probably has many connections with the military that are often taken for granted.

# How does the military impact the local economy?

## A part of the community

The operations at Fort Stewart generate substantial revenues to local economies through wage and salary payments to military and civilian employees, construction contractor payments, and operating costs such as rent and lease payments for various types of equipment, utilities, telephone, office supplies, and nonconstruction contracts.

Along with neighboring southeast Georgia and coastal South Carolina, Savannah has an active military presence supported by a long military history. The presence of Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield (HAAF) has a significant beneficial impact on the region's economy. They are coastal Georgia's largest employer with approximately 15,000 soldiers; 27,000 military dependents;



and 2,800 civilians contributing to the economy. The combined 2000 payroll for Fort Stewart and HAAF was \$894 million. The Georgia Chamber of Commerce estimates Stewart and Hunter's overall economic impact on the region is more than \$2.0 billion annually.

Purchases in the area by the military personnel assigned to Fort Stewart and their family members make a significant contribution to the retail and service segments of the local economy. The positive contribution of Fort Stewart can



Fort Stewart is the largest military installation east of the Mississippi River, covering 279,270 acres in five different counties. Nearby Savannah is the site of Hunter Army Airfield, a vital part of the Fort Stewart complex. Hunter serves as a location from which troops and equipment can be deployed rapidly throughout the world.

be expressed in another way, induced direct and indirect employment. In other words, the employment induced into the area around Fort Stewart (from the multiplier effect of assigned military personnel and civilian employees) could range 24,000–36,000 jobs. The total civilian employment in the six-county area surrounding Fort Stewart totaled 142, 845 in 1996. If the civilian employment on post the maximum induced employment off post are considered, 24% to 39% of the six-county jobs can be attributed to the presence of Fort Stewart.

*For more information about the Army's noise management program contact:*

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*For more information on the Air Force's Noise Management Program contact:*

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